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INDIANA FARMER & GARDENER.

Indianapolis, Saturday, June 28, 1845.

Collections and Recollections.

"*Gather up the fragments . . . that nothing be lost.*"

SOILING.—In England, and, to some extent, in New England, cows are kept up through the summer, and grass is cut daily and brought to their yard. This is called soiling. It takes much less land to keep a cow, and all the manure is saved. It is stated in the Boston Cultivator, that by the usual method, taking all New England together, it takes five acres on an average to support one cow—two for hay and three for pasture. By soiling, one acre will support a cow. It has been lately stated that Dutch cheese is inferior to the English because the Dutch soil their cows; thus depriving them of exercise, air, &c. But this is not necessary to the system of soiling. A yard may be given them where air and motion can be had. A more valid objection, we think, lies in the fact that grasses which are the best for the production of rich milk, are not those usually sown for mowing. But on all hands it is admitted that fattening cattle may be soiled to a better advantage than pastured.

HIVING BEES.—A writer in the Michigan Farmer gives some directions for hiving bees, from which we collect a few facts. The hive should be made of seasoned stuff, the inside *not* planed off unless exceedingly rough, it should be free from all offensive odor. Dash a pint of water into it to wet the upper part a little, and sprinkle in a *little* salt. After hiving, raise the hive by putting sticks under to afford air; put green bushes on the top and sunny side of the hive, and give these a drench of water. Thus treated, bees will collect in the top of the hive and remain contented.

SCRATCHES IN HORSES.—This troublesome disease, it is said, will not occur where gypsum is strewn upon the stable floor. Gypsum is exceedingly useful as an absorbent of the volatile parts of manure; it also prevents offensive smell from it, and if, in addition, it keeps the feet sound it should be used in every stable.

The editor of the Southern Planter succeeded in healing an obstinate case of scratches, which had resisted all the ordinary remedies, by the use of a mixture of salt and tar.

TO DESTROY ANTS.—These vexatious depredators upon the sugar barrel, the sweetmeat cupboard, and the fruit garden, seem as hardy and robust in health as they are mischievous. Nests of them in grass plats may be visited with a kettle of scalding water about evening twilight when ants will be mostly at home and ready to receive company. It is said that particles of the camphor gum laid in drawers, cupboards and closets will disgust and effectually repel them. In a garden the best remedy is said to be the common *toad*, which will rid the garden of them. It is well known that this reptile is a great devourer of insects; but few know how useful they may be made in this humble but most desirable vocation. We never permit them to be disturbed; and every random toad which we obtain we colonize to our vegetable Liberia, and to have translated three or four toads to our quarters in a day, has always been regarded by us as a fortunate achievement. They are supposed to be particularly fond of ants, of which, as their digestion is very rapid, they consume immense quantities. Where trees are infested, set boards edgwise about the trunk, so as to form a box, and confine a toad or two therein; they will be ready to entertain the ants as they descend the tree. It is said that gas tar will drive ants from any place where it is put.

SAVE YOUR SALT BARRELS.—In visiting a venerable Quaker family in Madison county, not long since, the good lady of the house informed me that she had by chance put her dried fruit loose in an old salt barrel, and that they suffered none from the depredation of insects. It is worth while to know this, as, from the want of green fruit this season, we shall be obliged to depend upon dried fruit kept over. In looking over a ten-year-old English volume on horticulture, I came across a similar statement in respect to saving grain from the weavil. A pint of salt to the barrel of wheat; or, what is better, putting the grain into old salt barrels, will keep it from insect-harm.

CAMPHOR FOR FLOWERS.—Two or three drops of a saturated solution of camphor in alcohol, put into half an ounce of soft water, forms a mixture which will revive flowers that have begun to droop and wilt, and give them freshness for a long time.

TO COOK TOMATOES.—He that does not love tomatoes is an object of pity. Every art of cooking should be employed to inveigle the appetite of every man to love a vegetable so wholesome.

Peel a dozen ripe tomatoes and fry them in a little sweet butter (which nine Hoosiers out of ten will understand to mean a little clean lard) together with two or three sliced green peppers; sprinkle on a little salt; and finally slice up an onion or two, and let the whole cook thoroughly. This is the Spanish method of preparing them.

Another method, which from a long experience we know will wear well, is as follows. The directions are for a mess of tomatoes amounting to about three pints when cooked.

Begin by parboiling two onions. While this is doing peel the tomatoes, which is easily done after hot water has been poured over them; cut them up and add the onions, also a teacupfull and a half of bread crumbled fine, a table spoonfull of salt, a heaping teaspoonful of black pepper, a lump of butter of the size of a turkey's egg, or about four table spoonsful. Beat these thoroughly together and set them over a slow fire to stew. *They should cook slowly and for a long time;* never less than three hours, but the longer the better. About fifteen minutes before they are to be used beat up six eggs and stir them in, and put them on fresh coals and give them one grand boil up, stirring them all the time. When so cooked no directions will be needed how to eat them.

The art of cooking the tomato lies mostly in cooking them enough. They should be put to work the first thing after the breakfast things are out of the way, even if you do not dine till *three*.

CALLA ETHIOPICA.—This fine plant may be obtained by offsets from the root or from seed. By this last method we obtained plants which flowered in seven months from planting. We have had two stately plants in the parlor during the past winter, blossoming continually from November to this present date (June 19), when the last blossom is dying off and we are about to put the plants to rest for the summer. We measured one flower during the winter, and found it to be nine inches long and seven inches across.

This splendid plant is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, where it is found in rich soils along the river courses, and no one who has sat down in mid-winter under its bold, glossy leaves, or admired its pure white flower, will choose to be without it. Attention to a few directions will enable every one to cultivate the Calla with ease.

1. In September or October it should be potted in rich sandy loam, say three parts sandy loam and two leaf mould with very thoroughly rotted manure. When an old plant is in hand, the dirt should be shaken entirely out of the roots, and the roots shortened about one half, and, unless they are wanted for propagation, the offsets should be broked off. Although we have seen good plants in small pots, they do better in very large ones. We usually take the largest size earthen crocks, measuring twelve inches across and about fourteen deep; with a punch we carefully break three holes in the bottom as large as a common sized hickory nut. Put about two inches depth of broken pottery or pebbles for drainage, then fill in the earth and give it a copious watering. Set it for a week in a shady place, and then begin to supply it with water.

2. As this is an aquatic plant, it requires copious daily watering. Several persons have complained to us of the barrenness of their Callas, and we suspect the difficulty to have been in watering. If permitted, from neglect, to become too dry, while in a growing state they will not flower; and although a long treatment might at length restore them, it will be quicker and easier to start a new plant and reject the old one. A well grown healthy Calla should measure about four feet in height.

Water should stand in the saucer continually, but the old should be thrown out every morning and the saucer rinsed or it will become offensive.

3. About the first of June, if the plant has flowered through the winter, it should be watered less and less till the leaves begin to fade; then, in some sheltered place, the pot may be turned down on its side and left thus till September, when the plant is to be repotted as above. It is, therefore, about the time now, to put the Calla at rest.

SPRING FLOWERING BULBS.—It is time that these should be raised. Tulips, narcissus, hyacinths, &c., will do very well for three years, but never longer. Jonquill, frittilaria, crocus, and iris should be raised every other year. The Dutch florists raise their bulbs every year. This is to be done when the leaves are withered and fallen. Place them in an airy, shady place to dry, for two or three days, and then lay them away in a dry, cool, apartment; when the roots are quite dry, rub them off. We prefer to leave the offsets on until autumn. They keep fresher and do better when planted out for new bulbs.

When a choice collection of named varieties is in hand, they should be laid away with more care for fear of mixing the sorts.

Those who desire fine flowers should begin to prepare compost for their beds, for although they will not plant out their bulbs until September or October, yet the com-

post should be thoroughly tempered before hand and turned over several times during the summer.

Dahlias.—It is necessary to give your plants a strong support, for, in good seasons, they grow so thriftily, that rains and winds break down the branches even when the main stalk is strongly staked. Those who are willing to be at the trouble should put three stakes so as to leave the stem in the middle. Take a pliant withe, or small hoop and encircle the stakes at the top, the middle, and also about a foot from the ground. In this way the branches will lean on the hoops, and not be liable to split off; a few week's growth will cover and conceal the stakes and hoops, leaving to the eye only a mass of foliage, apparently, self sustained.

Rhubarb.—The Prairie Farmer for June exults over a present of "pie plant extraordinary," as it is called, raised by Mr. Cahoon of Southport, Wisconsin. Four stalks weighed three pounds and nine ounces—less than sixteen ounces apiece. They measured in length twenty-one inches, and five in circumference. This is, after all, but "common doings." Last June, we raised pie plants, whose stalks would *average* sixteen ounces, and one weighed, (we had many such) eighteen, and measured twenty three inches in length and six in girth. But even this is not large, it seems. Capt. Lovett exhibited at the hall of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, on the seventh of this month (June) thirteen stalks of Myatt's Victoria Rhubarb weighing twenty-one pounds or more than twenty five ounces apiece! In preparing this for pies, we presume, it has to be chopped up with an axe, and is sold in market by the cord!

Easter Beurre Pears.—Mr. C. Newhall of Dorchester, Mass., exhibited on the seventh of June, fine specimens of the Easter Beurre pear, of the growth of 1844. They were in excellent order. Mr. Ernst and Dr. Cornett, if we remember aright, incline to the belief that this pear will not do well at the West. We really hope, and incline to believe, that no trial has been made sufficient to justify such an opinion for the West. Without doubt, some soils will not produce it in perfection. But how thoroughly, and on what good pear soils has it been proved?

Requests.

The wheat harvest has begun, and, in many parts of the State, been completed. Will our subscribers send us accounts from every direction? We should be glad to hear from every county in the State. The new postage law will enable us to pay for four or five letters where before we paid for one.

Many Ohio farmers in consequence of the loss of their grass crop through drought, have sown corn broad-cast, to be cut and cured like hay. If any of our readers try it, will they give us an account of their success?

The Brookville American, (one of our most readable papers) speaks of an Alabama wheat, brought to the Whitewater by a Judge Hackleman. Will some of our subscribers send us a particular account of this wheat, its peculiar excellence &c.? Does any one in this region cultivate it? We suppose that Mr. Hooper of the Western Farmer and Gardener, can probably throw light upon it.

Will the New England Farmer publish the description of the *Scolytus Pyri* by Prof. Peck, contained, we believe, in the fifth vol. of the New England Farmer; also, the description of it by Dr. Harris. We have not access to either of these authorities.

Croaking about Crops.

We do not remember a single spring since we were old enough to read, in which the crops were not dreadfully injured—not half a crop; a very poor prospect, through excessive wet, or excessive drought or excessive anxiety, if nothing else will do! Crops are invariably winter-killed, or spring-killed or summer-killed; the smut always takes the kernel, or the rust takes the straw, or the fly ravages! Now there is, no doubt, much suffering from all these causes; nevertheless "seedtime and harvest" are sure, and year by year there is an immense surplus of grain. Thus it will prove this year. In Indiana, the wheat harvest promises more than an average. In the middle States all accounts represent the yield as excellent. In Ohio and New York the crop will be good. Ohio has, seemingly, suffered most, and yet, with a few local exceptions, there will be a good crop throughout the State.

A Handsome Rose.

The Philadelphia Ledger says that "the Michigan, or eglantine rose, as it is called, may be planted at the side of a dwelling, at the base of a column, or at the foot of a tree. From a single root it will spread out its branches to the length of twenty-eight or thirty feet in one season. Its foliage is beautiful, but what renders it most pleasing is the numerous clusters of flowers, white, pink, red and black, which may be frequently seen in one cluster."

One more morsel for our credulity to swal-

low. Every one can tell how true this is if he will look at the common wood rose, or at the same thing climbing over our log cabins. The Michigan, or eglantine, is nothing but this. If they find *red* or *black* roses in the same cluster with white and pink, they will do more than ever we could. It is quite amusing to see what a figure things cut after they have travelled. If one wishes to feel cheap, he ought to send on his money for one of these Michigan roses, set it in his garden, tell all his neighbors what a rare rose he has got; and then, when it blooms, receive their equivocal congratulations.

Good Breeds of Cows.

There is hardly one thing which conduces more to the comfort of a family than a good cow. A family well supplied with rich milk twice a day cannot have poor fare; for, besides the use of pure milk by itself, there is no article, except flour, which enters into so many forms of cooking. Next in importance to the family, are the relations of the cow to the dairy; we say *next* to the family, for it is more important that there should be good cows for private families than that dairies should have them. All the dairy herds might be destroyed, and, if each family has its cow, the loss would be bearable. But take from families their one cow, and all the dairies in the land could not compensate.

The question of a good breed of milch cows is important then, to the whole communty; to the dairymen of course; but yet more to the families of laborers, mechanics, merchants, &c.

Every body knows that it costs no more to keep a good cow than a poor one. But what is the use in talking so when good ones are not to be had? or to be had only at a price which not one in fifty can afford? The Western Farmer and Gardener says that Dr. Martin of Kentucky, had a cow which, for two months together after calving, yielded forty-two quarts of milk aday; that there was a cow in Newport (opposite Cincinnati) which, for six months together, gave eight gallons; that Mr. Hoffner, Cummingsville, Ohio, has a cow from which he makes thirteen and a half pounds of butter a week. We are very glad to learn that Mr. H. and Dr. M. live in a land flowing with milk, and we are glad to have such cows held up to let farmers know what *can* be done, and what they should aim to do. But so far as I am concerned, and so far as ninety-nine in a hundred are concerned, of what use are these accounts except to make us dissatisfied with our poor old cow without enabling us to get a better? It was all right to publish them, but the sight of such facts reminded us of the low estate of our milk cows, and of the woful carelessness of farmers about improving their stock.

1. It is high time that Farmers should endeavor to procure a good milk breed. It is well known that horses and oxen are almost bred to order; if a fore shoulder is too slight, a breeder crosses so that in the next generation it comes out right; if the animal is too small he is enlarged; if too large he is condensed; if the back is too long, the leg too heavy, the muscle too spare, the head heavily or clumsily put on, the breeder has skill, in a great measure, to remedy the evils. Why then should it not be thought both possible and worth while to breed for good milking properties? Col. Jaques of Charleston, Massachusetts, has endeavored, and we believe with success, to do it. We recollect an account of a farmers' meeting during the session of the Massachusetts Legislature, before which Col. J. churned a specimen of the cream from this breed, (classically named by him, Creampot breed!) with a spoon, in a bowl, in *one minute*. It is said that the milk of the cow with which he began his breed, would separate into butter simply by carrying it into the city in the ordinary milk carts.

Why should not efforts be made among us to have a dairy breed? The Aldernay and Ayrshire, the Durham and Hereford in England; the various crosses of Devon and Durham blood in New England supply admirable dairy stock. What have we in Indiana, but the purest blooded scrub stock?

We believe that nothing would be more profitable to any one who would skilfully undertake it. From twenty to thirty dollars could be had for good milkers without difficulty, and higher prices for extraordinary

specimens. When once started there would be no more expense in multiplying valuable stock, than in the ordinary kind.

At present, we doubt if there is good stock to begin with in the State, with the exception of a few counties. Either some public spirited wealthy men, or some association of individuals will have to bring in a choice stock, which, crossed on the native animals, will gradually improve them.

But, until a new spirit prevails, even the presence of a superior bull in a neighborhood would avail little; multitudes would let any vagabond bull serve their herd before they would give fifty cents for the best bull on the continent. It is the same with horses. The country is full of fourth-rate horses standing out, because fine horses would not be patronized at remunerating prices.

The least trouble, not the best stock, seems to be the question with most. The discouragement of debt, the low prices of all farm products, the habits of arrant carelessness which naturally belong to large farms, of rich lands, removed from a ready market, and on which there is more than enough for home use, and much waste of the surplus because a poor sale for it,—these things are the causes why but little attention is paid to good stock. To be sure, in speculating times, large prices have been paid for animals of repute. And now, if fancy prices could be realized, there are thousands who would beg, borrow, or steal enough to rush madly into the raising of improved breeds. Even from such extravagance much collateral advantage results. Many, doubtless, are disappointed, as they expected angelic cattle, and got nothing but flesh and blood; those who are the most furious in one extreme, revolt to the other, and are as careless and neglectful this year, as they were cattle-mad the last year. But, some good, notwithstanding, remains. Good breeds have been brought in. Good blood will run longer in good stock, than perseverence, often, will in their owners. Here and there a man holds on. His stock improves. His neighbors' herds are gradually leavened. By and bye particular counties grow famous for their fine stock. The farmers feel some pride in it—and now the thing begins to work rightly. When once the best stock, of any kind, is a matter of hearty personal pride with the farmer, over and above the mere price of them in market, then there will be constant and solid improvement.

These remarks, applying to stock generally, are peculiarly applicable to the subject of milch cows with which we set out.

Let one reflect to what an extent Indiana will be a grazing State; particularly in the northern central portions. What quantities of cheese and butter will be sent out, whenever facilities of transportation allow a cheap and easy carriage to market, and he will see how important it is that the foundation of this branch of farming—good breeds of milch cows—should be attended to betimes. We do not mean to let this matter alone; but shall do all in our power both to excite an interest, and to give such information as will direct that interest in the most prudent and profitable manner.

Potato Disease.

The potato crop has been extensively affected with a species of blight. We have reports of it from England, New England, the middle States, and as far west as central Ohio. Whether it has been felt in Indiana, or about Chicago and in regions west of that, we do not know. Will some one inform us if it be the fact?

As many causes are given for this disease as there ever were for fire-blight in fruit trees. The yeomanry of Great Britain regard it as the result of *guano*, the new and famous manure, the introduction of which into Great Britain has made an era in the history of manures. In this country, where guano as yet is not used for field crops, it is ascribed to the honey dew, to insects, to vegetable fungi; some regard it as a judgment upon early planting; it is too much stimulating manure, with others, and of course, after these, come in the usual round of convenient causes for anything and everything—iron, electricity, heat, &c. &c. An able writer in the Louisville Journal, apparently an Englishman, supposes it to result from planting *over-ripe* potatoes. There is no doubt that potatoes just *before* they are ripe, are better for seed than such

as are dead ripe. But, it seems to us, that if were the use of too ripe seed, the effect would be as universal as the cause.

The American Agricultural Association in New York city have offered a premium of fifty dollars for the best investigations made during the present season. Although we hardly suppose any in this region will compete for this premium, we hope that our readers will give good heed to their crops in this respect, and give us information of everything relating to this disease, should it, unhappily, appear this season among us.

Cutting and Curing Grass.

The question, when grass should be cut, it seems to us, is to be answered by the purposes to which we mean to put it.

Do we wish it for the seed, or for the stem? Are we anxious to obtain the greatest weight from an acre? or are we desirous of gaining the largest amount, with the least exhaustion of the soil?

1. If one, regardless of soil, wishes the greatest weight to an acre, let the grass ripen. It will have become perfectly developed; its juices will have perfected the solid matter, and less loss will ensue in curing. But the stem will be comparatively hard, and without nutriment.

2. Do we desire, without particular regard to economy, the most nutricious food for animals? The grass should ripen and *only the upper part of the stem* and the head, should be fed out; for, while the buts will be hard and juiceless, the grain and husk and neighboring parts will have received, in a concentrated form, the height of the plant's juices. Chemistry has recently shewn that plants prepare, in themselves, the fatty matter which is afterward laid on the bones of cattle. This fatty substance lies not in the grain, but in the husk.

Johnston, the agricultural chemist, says: "This fact of the existence of more fat in the husk than in the inner part of the grain, explains what often seems inexplicable to the practical man, why bran, namely, which *appears* to contain little or no nourishing substance, should yet fatten pigs and other full-grown animals when fed to them in sufficient quantity, along with their other food." If, for example, a horse is to be trained, it has long been the *practice*, (though hitherto the reason was not understood) to give the racers, the hunter, &c., only the top joint and head of hay. Now the principle on which a trained horse is fed, is to give the most solid nourishment in the most compact form—throwing as little unnutricious food as possible into the stomach consistently with a proper distension of it.

This fact also explains the value of old hay which has been well cured and well kept. Is is known that freshly gathered nuts are not so oily as those which are old. All seeds perfect their oil after being thoroughly ripened by keeping. The seed of old hay will be richer in fatty matter, then, than new.

3. The most palatable hay for cattle is that which is cut before it ripens its seed. If the farmer has enough grain to feed with, he can afford to cut his grass early. Its want of nutriment will be made up by feeding grain, and his stock will relish their food better than if it had grown hard with age before cutting.

4. *But for general purposes*, grass should be cut when just out of flower. This is a compromise between the two extremes. It combines the two advantages of juiciness of stem and richness of grain more nearly than any other. The stem will be cut while yet in juice, and the seed, will continue to fill and ripen *after it has been cut*. This is well known in respect to wheat, and the best farmers cut it before it is dead ripe.

We will now give the views of practical farmers on the subject.

Allen Putnam, formerly editor of the New England Farmer, says in that paper, Aug. 30, 1843.

"In this vicinity, where we are giving our working animals, meal or oats, hay that is cut in the blossom is preferred. But where no grain is given, we are not ready to say that the seed of ripe herdgrass is not a *very serviceable* accompaniment of the stock and leaves. The stock and leaf are less when cut young—but at that time there is no grain or seed. If you use meal or oats in connection with hay cut young, you furnish as we judge, the best feed—but if you do not mean to furnish anything *but hay*, that hay may

be best *which contains the most grain*, or has upon it the most ripened seed.

"To make cattle do well, however, upon such hay, we suppose it necessary that they shall be kept generally from forming a taste for that which is cut younger; otherwise they will not fill themselves.

"One remark which we have heard from many sources, may have some bearing upon this point. Our Massachusetts horses when journeying in vermont, seldom relish the *hay* that is given to them. This is perhaps caused by the fact that the grass stood longer before it was cut than it is allowed to in Massachusetts.

"Our inference from the little that we know and think upon the subject, is, that if we were not able to furnish our stock with grain, we should prefer to feed upon hay that contained ripened seed; and that if we could furnish grain, we should choose to use in connection with that hay which was cut in blossom.

"That hay is more hearty, and that it is cured at less expense when not cut until it is ripe, we suppose must be admitted. But it is less palatable—and the ground furnishes less after-growth. Either may be best according to the farmer's circumstances."

We give the opinion of Mr. A. B. Allen, the Editor of the American Agriculturist.

"There is also another great advantage in cultivating timothy principally, as a hay crop. It dries away less, or loses less weight in curing than most other grasses, and if not cut too early, yields great quantities of seed, sometimes as high as twenty-five or thirty bushels to the acre, and the straw makes a very tolerable hay. It suffers less from long standing in the field after fit for the scythe than other grasses, and taken altogether, cattle, horses, and sheep are fonder of it than any other hay; and it should never be cut until it has passed the flower, and the pollen begins to drop from the head, and then for all feeding purposes the sooner cut the better. Even then, much of the seed will ripen. Ordinary farm-stock fed on this hay will thrive if they have *enough* of it, and our own cattle have often, when purchased late in the fall, gone into the stables in low condition, and come out in high flesh in the spring with no other food than timothy and clover hay, water, and salt."

We give the method of R. L. Pell, of New York, of which we are not prepared to express an opinion.

"My practice is to commence cutting when one-third of the blossoms of clover have turned brown, and the timothy just parting with its bloom. The grass thus cut is drawn immediately into the barn, and one bushel of fine salt spread by hand thinly over each alternate layer composing a ton, as it is stowed away in the mow. The salt prevents mow-burning, moulding, &c., and the stock are induced to eat it as greedily as they would new-mown grass, which it nearly resembles, as its most nutritious juices are preserved, being diffused through the stem of the entire plant at that period of its growth. If left on the ground until the seed ripens, the saccharine juice of the plant is lost.

"The principal desire of the farmer should be to preserve the green appearance of his hay, and at the same time make it tender and palatable to his stock. The fermentation which ensues after it is housed, secures that object, and prevents the inevitable injury to his meadows which follows ripening grasses. By early harvesting he obtains a luxuriant growth of aftermath or rowen, almost as nutricious as the first, and as much relished by cattle, but peculiarly adapted to sheep."

We invite Mr. Tucker, of the Albany Cultivator, to speak next, only premising that our farmers had better take heed to all these suggestions as to *curing* hay. The want of barns to store it, the want of markets in which to sell it, the want of profit in raising it, and lastly, the want of thrift in making it, has caused thousands of tons of hay to be most wretchedly put up—*curing* as it is sarcastically called; cured, probably, on the principle of the following story. A physician in England went out with the gamekeeper to hunt; covey after covey was started, into which the Doctor fired, with a strange want of professional skill, without killing anything. The gamekeeper at length lost patience, and snatching the gun said "Let me take it, I'll doctor them."

"What do you mean, sir, by *doctoring* them?"

"Why *kill* them, to be sure."

Thus, we think, grass is too often doctored.

"We think it best to cut grass for hay, as near as possible at the time when it is in fullest bloom. Of course, if it is cut when most of it is in this state, some may be a little past, and some may not have quite reached full bloom. We know there has heretofore been some difference of opinion as to the stage grass should be in when it is cut, but we believe the experience of the best farm-

ers is in agreement with the position above assumed. Those who are in the habit of curing herbs, cut them when in this stage, because it is known that they contain at that time the most of that peculiar principle from which they derive their efficacy and value. The saccharine or sugar principle, which constitutes one of the chief sources of nutriment in herbage, is found in the greatest quantity at the period of bloom. It may sometimes be expedient to cut grass before it has reached this state; particularly where it falls down, and is in danger of souring or rotting. When this happens, it should be cut, whatever state it may be in, because if it remains on the ground it will spoil, and the fermentation which takes place, will destroy the roots. Another great advantage in cutting grass before the seed forms, is, that the roots are not so much exhausted, and the after-growth is much more vigorous.

"In some parts of the country, it is the practice to mow the grass and let it lie untouched on the ground through sunshine and shower, for several days, before it is stacked or put into the barn. It is quite common to begin Monday and continue to mow till Saturday, when with hand-rakes and horse-rakes, all turn in, take it up and stack it; and this is done too, without much regard to the state of the weather at the time it is raked, or to what it may have been after it was cut. The appearance of the animals which are fed on hay thus managed, is evidence enough of its worthlessness.

"After grass is cut and partly dried, it ought never to be exposed to dew or wet. The best way is to spread out the mown grass evenly, as soon as the wet has dried off from the spaces between the swathes, and before the dew falls in the evening, rake it and put it in cock. Where the crop is heavy, considerable time will be gained in making by this plan. If it is only wilted when it is put in cock, it will in a short time undergo a *sweat*, which will much facilitate its making when it is again opened to the sun. Many good farmers believe that it will make more in two days, if it is kept in cock twelve hours, than it will make in three days without being put in cock.

"In making clover hay, we are decidedly in favor of not exposing it much to the sun after it is first wilted. We speak from experience, having practiced various modes, and we are certain that it may be made with less labor, and that it is of far superior quality, when cured in cock, than in any other way. When the swathes are a little wilted, pitch them into cocks—laying it up in such a manner that it will stand the weather, which is easily done by the exercise of a little care. Examine the hay from day to day to see how the process of curing advances, and when it seems to be so well made that with what it will dry in handling, it will do to put into the barn or stack, turn over the cocks, loosen up the bottoms a little with a fork, and proceed to load it. Clover hay thus cured, is not likely to heat in the mow or stack, and from having every leaf and head saved, will be found to be very nutritious and much relished by all animals. In fact, we believe that clover hay, properly cured, will make more flesh, milk, or butter, than any other hay, pound for pound. The prejudice against clover, has arisen from the bad manner of curing it. Knocked about as it frequently is, wet and dried by turns, it loses its leaves and heads, and becomes little else than a mass of tasteless stems, which no animal will eat."

We extract from the New York Central Farmer (that *once* was) most heartily agreeing to the closing remarks.

Whenever men feel conscience-bound not to labor on the sabbath, they so arrange their affairs as that they never need to do it; while those who will do it at a pinch are never in want of pinches.

"The proper time for cutting grass, is a matter upon which, among the best of farmers, a diversity of opinion prevails. Clover, it is believed, should be cut when the flowers first begin to fade. In respect to timothy grass, it is a debatable point whether it should be cut in the flower, or when the seed is formed and almost ripened. For market the greener the hay, provided it is sweet, the better it always sells. According to the analytical experiments of Sinclair, the nearer it approaches to ripeness, the more nutritive matter it contains. Many persons are of opinion that the decision of a jury of cattle would be much more satisfactory and conclusive.

"Sundry modes have been suggested for the curing of clover hay. No grass, in our humble opinion, suffers greater deterioration from excessive drying, and much stirring and tossing about. Our practice, and which of course we think the best, has been not to spread clover, but simply to turn the swath after the top is wilted, and in the afternoon of the day on which it is cut, put it carefully into small cocks, and let it remain until it is sufficiently cured to carry to the barn. When this is to be done, the cocks should be turned over, so that any moisture which may be at the bottom of them, may be dried off. Cured in this way, it comes out perfectly bright and sweet, the leaves and blossoms remain on, and we value it more than any other grass for our sheep and cattle.

On some farms it is no uncommon thing to spend a part of the Sabbath in hay-making. Is it ever necessary? Sometimes, to be sure, if it be not attended to, the hay will be spoiled, or badly injured. But this is only when the sun shines hot on the Sabbath upon hay that has been wet; then if the hay is not *opened*, it may be badly injured. But nothing more need be done than to *open* it.

As far as our observation authorizes a conclusion, we have no hesitation in saying, that on those farms where work is avoided on the Sabbath, the hay is secured in as good condition and with as much economy, as where the Sabbath is appropriated to hay-making. We know that in general it can be so planned, that everything can be so secured on Saturday, that nothing shall suffer, in any ordinary weather, by being left untouched on the Sabbath; and we are of the belief that this day of rest is so needful to the hard laboring man, that he can and will, taking the year round, accomplish as much in the six days of labor and one of rest, as in seven of labor without any for rest. Taking no other arguments than those which are furnished by observation of men and the human system, we are prepared to oppose labor on the Sabbath, as unprofitable, and a thing to be avoided."

We close with the Boston Cultivator We have never seen, anywhere else, an allusion to root-bleeding from early cutting.

"With regard to the best time for cutting herdgrass for hay, even practical men are divided in opinion. In a late conversation with Mr. Isaac Reeves, the proprietor of the large peach orchards in Delaware, to whom every practical man looks up with deference and the highest respect, he observed—'I will take an old piece of herdsgrass that at present yields less than half a ton of hay per acre, and at the end of five years, without breaking up, fresh seeding or manuring in any way whatever, I will raise the crop to two and a half tons per acre; this I will do, by merely permitting the crop to stand until the seed will just vegetate before cutting. By mowing the crop sooner than that, the roots bleed and die out, and that is the reason why a second crop does not spring for a long time after. I once purchased the fifth part of the crop of timothy on one of the islands in the Delaware, with the intention of cutting my lot at the time the other four purchasers did theirs, but I was called from home, and it was not done until the seeds would vegetate; I thought my hay was spoiled, but it was preferred to that of all others for horses' feed, and, behold the next year my lot of land yielded double the crop of the others, and at the end of five years it had increased to two and a half tons per acre, having overgrown all other grasses; a uniform crop, five feet in height, and preferred before all others at the market. Since that, I have never cut timothy until the seeds will just vegetate.'

"Mr. Phinney considers the hay best for dairy stock when cut early; for oxen and horses he prefers to let it stand longer; the object in the first case being milk, in the last, flesh or strength; but then comes the grand consideration, the renovation of the crop, *by preventing the bleeding of the roots* —a new idea; and would our friends examine the subject, and give us the result for the columns of the Cultivator!—*Bost. Cult.*

Watering Trees, etc.

This spring has been unfavorable for newly set trees. We have observed many persons copiously watering young trees, and garden plants.

1. In many cases much water is a positive injury. The roots draw up a larger supply of liquid than there is vigor in the tree to digest or appropriate. In such cases the tissue is enfeebled, the roots decay, and the tree perishes in the trying heats of July and August.

2. It often happens that wetting the tree itself is much better than watering the root. Take a watering pot and drench the leaves and limbs and trunk, several times in a day. In a small tree a large bunch of cotton or rags may be put in the crotch and saturated with water. It will gradually trickle down the stem, and also evaporate, keeping the leaves in a moist medium. This trouble is worth while in case of rare trees difficult to be obtained. A tree perspires as really as an animal, or a man. Every leaf is furnished with *stomata*, or pores, the number and size of which determine the amount of perspiration. Of course, as they vary in different plants, there is a corresponding difference in the amount which they perspire. Plants which grow in exposed situations, scorched by the sun, have a structure which admits but slight perspiration; while those which grow in the shade and in moist places, perspire copiously.

It is upon this state of facts that watering the tree itself, is beneficial. The exhalation from the leaf is diminished, and sap re-

tained within the tree. Besides this the leaf and young green bark absorb some moisture.

3. Where watering is resorted to, it should not be upon the surface; especially is this injurious in clay soils. The moisture is immediately exhaled, and the sun hardens the wet earth into a crust, nearly as impervious to light and air and moisture as if it were sheet iron. Let a slight trench be opened, and after the water has sunk away, replace the earth and pulverise it. In this way no baking will take place.

4. But the best method of watering by the root, is that which is technically denominated *mulching*. Cover the surface of the ground beneath the tree or shrub with three or four inches thickness of coarse, strawy manure. If watered through this, the earth will not bake; the moisture will not evaporate; the root will be shielded from the sun, and enriched by the infiltration of the juices of the manure.

Squeamishness.

The most important affair in the way of litigation was the trial of Messrs. Lanius & Athearn, for establishing a nuisance in the shape of a distillery and hog pens, within the town of Rising Sun, and which resulted in the acquital of the defendants. It was decided that the hog pens were not a nuisance.

Lawrenceburgh Reg.

What a fuss for nothing! just as if a hog pen were not like a bed of roses in a dewy evening. High times, indeed, if hogs are to be disfranchised! and distillery hogs at that. If the good people would change their hand, and insist upon it, that hogs of every *species* which feed at distilleries should be kept in distillers' pens, it would be more to the purpose. As it is, they are grunting, and rooting about, a set of peripatetic nuisances. People who own or abet distilleries are very justly jealous at any interference with the rights of swine, and they have scripture for it. See 1 Tim. v. 8.

Remedy for Cholic in Horses.—Dissolve a piece of opium, about two-thirds the size of a hazelnut, (say about twenty grains,) and half a pint of brandy, and pour it down by the usual method of a bottle, or horn.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

Weakness in the loins of Hogs.

I was often anxious to ascertain a cure for this disease, and many have been recommended, but they have always failed to effect a cure. I found, upon examination, that the eyes were affected with *hooks*, as horses are. I cut them, therefore, for the hooks, and it has never failed to effect a cure in a few days. The length of time required for a cure is according to the length of time the disease has run. JOHN HYDER.

Spencer, Owen County.

Remarks.—A gentleman informs me that the *hooks*, in horses, are also accompanied by weakness in the loins, and that this weakness disappears when the eye is successfully operated upon.—*Ed.*

For the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

How to make the most of a small Plot of Ground.

Sir:—The following fact, which was related to me a few days ago, may not be particularly interesting to persons hereabouts, who commonly have connected with their premises a garden, or a piece of ground capable of being converted into a garden of moderate size, even in our towns; but as a curious fact, and as shewing how persons in large and dense cities, where such a thing as a garden can seldom be obtained, can, and sometimes do, avail themselves of the right which the law allows them of the occupancy of their small patch, it is at least curious.

Mr. Zollikoffer, of Philadelphia, occupies a house somewhere about Walnut and Sixth streets. The house is four stories in height, and the ground at the back of it, or the yard, is so much occupied with out-buildings as to leave but a narrow path on which to cross it, and in one place a piece of ground unoccupied by buildings, measuring about two feet by three. In this small plot Mr. Z., some years ago, planted a vine, which he carefully trained against the house, until it covered the roof, and from this single plant, growing in so diminutive a vinyard, he annually gathers several bushels of grapes.

G.

Take the strongest of the runners of strawberries off in June, if you want to make new plantations.

Whenever you buy or sell, let or hire, make a clear bargain, and never trust to "We shan't disagree about trifles."

Pulling off Potato Flowers.

We observe that a letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Hereford Times*, by Mr. W. Godsall, strongly recommending all persons interested in the potato crop, to pull off the flowers diligently as they appear. we beg to second that wish. All experience shows that flowers of the potato are produced at the expense of that organizable matter which gives its value to the tuber, and which is diminished in quantity in proportion to the number of flowers that have been fed; for flowers must exist and feed on something, and that something is what would, if not removed by the flowers, descend beneath the ground and collect itself in tubers.

The mere production of flowers is a loss; but the mischief is infinitely increased if the flowers are succeeded, as they almost always are, by the berries. The actual amount of loss produced by each truss of flowers, is not ascertained; but it is probable that if the flowers extract one ounce of organizable matter, the berries consume at least twice as much. Now, as potatoes are not grown for the sake of either the flowers or the berries, every particle of matter which is consumed by the plant in producing them, is a dead loss to the grower.

The man who makes his potato-ground feed flowers, prevents it feeding his children. Every ounce of matter consumed by the flowers is so much taken from the consumption of the family.

We cannot just now, lay our hands on any precise evidence of how much is lost in this way. Mr. Godsall assumes it to amount to many hundred weights, or even a ton an acre; but he is in all probability under the mark. A bunch of potato berries weighs, we will say, half a pound. Suppose that each potato plant bears half a dozen bunches; that makes three pounds of worthless produce. An acre of potato ground carries about 20,000 plants on an average; this gives 60,000 pounds of waste. But of this, 54,324 pounds will be water, according to Mr. Edward Solly's experiments, and only 5322 pounds organic matter. The latter, however, or two tons, seven hundred weight, fifty-eight pounds would, according to this calculation, be the amount of loss sustained per acre, by allowing the potatoes to flower and fruit.

Admitting, however, that this is an excessive statement; supposing it to be wrong by even one-half—and it cannot hardly be so much as that—still there is the most ample evidence to show the immense importance of preventing the potato expending its energy in the wasteful production of parts which are of no sort of use for food.—*London Gardener's Chronicle.*

[The above suggestions, coming (as we presume they do) from the pen of Prof. Lindley, the celebrated botanist, are entitled to great consideration.]

Good Manners.

The following from the New York Journal of Commerce should be read by every young man, and by parents to their children:

A gentleman, as the term was once, and should ever be defined, is a man of honor, of truth, of sense, and gentle courtesy; an unfailing friend, an obliging neighbor, a firm patriot, open-doored and open-hearted in his hospitality, who keeps a secret though he seeks not to discover it, more ready to give money than counsel, who confers a favor without intending to impose obligation, and who discovers the wishes and wants of his friends before they know it;* one who repeats no scandal, and publishes not his own praise; who does charitable acts without ostentation, and whose politeness is the expressive and well-chosen language of an enlightened mind and a benevolent heart. Good manners have become with him a habit, and though striken by misfortune, or cast down by the iron hand of poverty, he may be quickly known, even in his decay, and honor will attend him to his tomb. Such men there are, and many such, in our country, but not half so many as we trust there will be in a future age. We should look to our children and teach them that obedience to parents, subordination to teachers, respect for superiors, reverence for age, are the primary elements of good breeding; without which no one ever became an ornament of society.

Agricultural Colony.

An enterprise is on foot for establishing a colony of German emigrants in Morgan county, Tennessee. About two hundred thousand acres of land have been purchased,

* We have heard from an authentic source an interesting anecdote of the late Chief Justice Marshall, than whom a more perfect gentleman we never expect or desire to see. One of his friends, then advanced in life, became embarrassed in his pecuniary circumstances, and by some 'accident' the fact became known to the good Chief Justice. Some time after, dining at the house of this friend, when they had retired from the table, the Chief Justice carelessly enquired of this gentleman, whether he knew any person who would like to take a loan of a few thousand dollars, as he had an amount which he desired to place at the disposal of some one, on the ordinary terms, since it was of no use to him at that time. His friend replied that he did not know but he would like it himself; and of course, as may be supposed the arrangement was very easily settled. There are other singularly beautiful anecdotes related of this great and good man's delicacy and generosity.

and two or three hundred emigrants are daily expected to arrive. Others will follow from time to time as fast as preparations can be made for their reception. Manufactures and agriculture will engage the attention of the colony. For the former there is water power in the greatest abundance. The agricultural operations will have reference chiefly to the cultivation of the vine and fruit trees generally. Special attention will be given to the raising of sheep and the growth of wool. In view of the last mentioned object, the company have already sent over a few of the finest Electoral Saxony rams, whose original cost was over $500 a piece.

Another company, with similar objects in view, have purchased about sixty thousand acres in Perry county, Tennessee.—*Balt. American.*

"We're all Cowards in the Dark."

A medical friend of ours who, some years since, visited Paris under circumstances most favorable to an *entree* to a most interesting circle—that of the survivors and *ci devant* supporters of the "Empire," tells a capital story as he heard it related by the celebrated General Excelmans, one of Napoleon's *paladins*. It was at a dinner party composed of some of the survivors of Waterloo, a few of their younger relatives and the scion of an ex-king, on a visit from his home in America, and to whom our friend owed his introduction to the circle. Some question arose about bravery, when the young members of the company were electrified to hear the venerable and heroic Excelmans gravely and seriously declare, that *men were all cowards in the dark!* The General smiling at their expressions of dissent, remarked that it was "very like youth," and proceeded to tell the following anecdote in support of his strange declaration.

There was a young hot head in the Emperor's service who, burning for action, and his duties for the time affording no opportunity, at last resolved to fight a duel, and accordingly, choosing to construe some remark or other of an older and superior officer into an insult, challenged him. The old soldier waving all consideration of rank, agreed to meet the young man, but on the following unusual terms: The time should be night, the place a room in opposite corners of which they were to stand. The seconds, having placed their men, were to withdraw outside the door, *taking the candles with them*. The word should be given from without, when he who had the first fire should discharge his weapon, and the second bearing the light should immediately rush in!

These strange conditions were accepted, the time arrived, and the seconds placed the parties as agreed upon; withdrew immediately, and left their men in the dark. The word was given, the fire was heard, the door was re-opened, and there stood the elder of the two, bolt upright in the corner, his adversarie's ball having entered the wall so close to his head that the escape seemed little less than miraculous!

It was now the old soldier's turn to fire; they were again left in the dark, the word was again given from the outside, and instantaneously with the discharge, the seconds rushed in and found the challenger prostrated upon the floor—*not having yet recovered yimself from his trick to avoid the ball*, which, on examination, it was found, must have killed him.

The young man was covered with confusion, and the seconds were overwhelming him with the expression of their scorn, when the veteran stopped them.

"Not so fast, my young friends," said he, "you will grow wiser. Where do you suppose I was at the first fire? On my hands and knees in the corner, *but ma foi! I was up quicker than he! Par dieu, Messieurs, we're all cowards in the dark!*"

It was afterwards whispered to our friend, that the story was an actual fact, and that the elder of the parties was no other than the brave warrior Excelmans, himself.

Deferred Articles.

In selecting from Colman's Tour, in our last number, we had also set np some extracts from others for which there was not room. We now insert them.

Cobbett, who has been called by an impartial judge "one of the most accurate observers of all that related to the working man, that ever lived;" says of the laborers of the North of England.

Let me tell you, then, that there is neither village, nor church, nor alehouse, nor garden, nor cottage, nor flowers, nor pig, nor goose, nor common, nor green, but the thing is thus:—1. the farms of a whole county are generally speaking, the property of one lord. 2. They are so large, that the corn-stacks frequently amount to more than a hundred upon one farm, each stack having in it, on an average, from fifteen to twenty English quarters* of corn. 3. The farmer's house is a house big enough and fine enough for a gentleman to live in; the farmyard is a square, with buildings on the sides of it for horses, cattle, and implements; the stack-yard is

*An English *quarter*, by measure, is eight bushels.—*Ed.*

on one side of this, the stacks all in rows, and the place as big as a little town. 4. On the side of the farm-yard next to the stack-yard, there is a place to thrash the corn in; and there is, close by this, always a thrashing-machine, sometimes worked by horses, sometimes by water, sometimes by wind, and sometimes by steam. there being no such thing as a barn or flail in the whole country.

The single labourers are kept in this manner: about four of them are put into shed quite away from the farm-house, and out of the farm-yard; which shed, Dr. Jameson, in his Dictionary, calls a 'boothie,' a place, says he, where labouring servants are lodged. A boothie means a little booth; and here these men live and sleep, having a certain allowance of oat, barley, and pea meal, upon which they live, mixing it with water, or with milk when they are allowed the use of a cow, which they have to milk themselves. They are allowed some little matter of money besides, to buy clothes with, but never dream of being allowed to set foot within the walls of the farm-house. They hire for the year, under very severe punishment in case of misbehaviour, or quitting service; and cannot have fresh service, without a *character* from the *last master*, and also from the *minister of the parish!*

Each distinct *boothie* is about seventeen feet one way, and fifteen feet the other way, as nearly as my eye could determine. There is no ceiling, and no floor but the earth. In this place, a man and his wife and family have to live. When they go into it there is nothing but the four bare walls, and the tiles over their head, and a small fire-place. To make the most of the room, they at their own cost erect *berths* like those in a barrack-room, which they get up into when they go to bed; and here they are, a man, and his wife, and a parcel of children, squeezed up in this miserable hole, with their meal and their washing tackle, and all their other things; and yet it is quite surprising how decent the women endeavor to keep the place. These women, for I found all the men out at work, appeared to be most industrious creatures, to be extremely obliging, and of good disposition; and the shame is, that they are permitted to enjoy so small a portion of the fruit of all their labours, of all their cares.

"But if their dwelling-places be bad, their food is worse, being fed upon exactly that which we feed hogs and horses upon. The married man receives in money about four pounds* for the whole year; and he has besides sixty bushels of oats, thirty bushels of barley, twelve bushels of peas, and three bushels of potatoes, with ground allowed him to plant the potatoes. The master gives him the keep of a cow the year round; but he must find the cow himself; he pays for his own fuel; he must find a woman to reap for twenty whole days in the harvest, as payment for the rent of his boothie. He has no wheat —the meal altogether amounts to about six pounds for every day in the year; the oat-meal is eaten in porridge; the barley-meal and pea-meal are mixed together, and baked into a sort of cakes, upon an iron plate put over the fire; they sometimes get a pig, and feed it upon the potatoes.

"Thus they never have one bit of wheaten bread, or of wheaten flour, nor of beef, nor mutton, though the land is covered with wheat and with cattle. The hiring is for a year, beginning on the 26th of May, and not at Michaelmas. The farmer takes the man just at the season to get the sweat out of him; and if he dies, he dies when the main work is done. The labourer is wholly at the mercy of the master, who, if he will not keep him beyond the year, can totally ruin him, by refusing him a character. The cow is a thing more in name than in reality; she may be about to calve when the 26th of May comes: the wife may be in such a situation as to make removal perilous to her life. This family has *no home;* and no home can any man be said to have, who can thus be dislodged every year of his life at the will of his master. It frequently happens, that the poor creatures are compelled to sell their cow for next to nothing; and, indeed, the *necessity of character from the last employer*, makes the man a real slave, worse off than the negro by many degrees; for here there is neither law to ensure him relief, nor motive in the master to attend to his health, or to preserve his life.

"Six days from daylight to dark these good, and laborious, and patient, and kind people labour. On an average they have six English miles to go to church. Here are therefore twelve miles to walk on Sunday; and the consequence is, that they very seldom go.—But, say you, what do they do with all the wheat, and all the beef, and all the mutton? and what becomes of all the money they are sold for? Why, the cattle and sheep walk into England upon their legs; the wheat is put into ships to be sent to London or elsewhere; and as to the money, the farmer is allowed to have a little of it, but almost the whole of it is sent to the landlord, to be gambled, or otherwise squandered away at *London*, at *Paris*, or at *Rome*. The rent of the land is enormous; four, five, six, or seven pounds for an English acre. The farmer is not allowed to get much; almost the whole goes into the pockets of the lords; the labourers are their slaves; and farmers their

* A pound sterling may be reckoned at $4 88, making the sum a little less than $20 per annum!—*Ed.*

slave-drivers. The farm-yards are, in fact, *factories* for making corn and meat, carried on principally by the means of horses and machinery. There are no people; and these men seem to think that people are not necessary to a state."

English Farmers' Dinner Party.

We wish we had room to give the whole of Howitt's masterly account of a farmer's dining party; as it is we extract a description of the culinary preparations; which, to be fully relished, should be read on a hungary stomach, just before dinner.

And then within begin the mighty preparations for the feast. Geese, turkeys, ducks and fowls are killed and pulled, and part are cooked, and part are made ready for cooking. If the farmer shoots, and it be the season, there are hares and rabbits, pheasants and patridges, brought to the larder; if he do not, he makes friends with the keeper, who occasionally takes a social pipe and glass with him; or he makes a direct request to his landlord for this indulgence. Hams are boiled, pies are made, puddings of the richest composition are put together. If it be Christmas, loud is the chopping of meat for mince-pies, busy the mixing of spices; and the washing and picking of currants and raisins; and pork-pies and sausages of most savoury and approved manipulation are raised into material existence. If the sucking-pig escapes whipping—and we hope no honest farmer is now cruel enough for this operation—creams and syllabubs do not; they are whipped, not to death, but into life. There are blanc-mange and jellies, crystalline and fragrant; clouted creams, and cream of strawberries, raspberries, and I know not what melting and delicious things. And O! such cheesecakes, and such patties, and such little cakes of various names and natures, for tea, and *entremets*, and dessert. I see the oven-door open and shut, as the iron tray of nicely laden patty-pans goes into the oven, or comes out with a rich perfection, and with odours most delicious, most mouth-melting, most inexpressible! The good and skilful dame, and the no less skilful and comely daughters, if she have them, and they are grown up to years of discretion in these delicate and culinary arts—what is not their depth of occupation! What glowing looks are theirs; what speculations; what contrivances and anticipations! I would fain take an easy chair in some cool corner of this milk-and-honey-flowing kitchen, and watch all their sweet employment, and hear all their sweet words in a grateful silence. But they are far from the end of their labours.—Nuts, walnuts, apples and pears, and other fruit, according as the season may be, are produced from their stores, or from the sunny walls and trees, wiped from every trace of mould or dust from the store-room, and placed in their proper receivers of glass, or china, or possibly of plate. Wine and spirit decanters are to be washed and carefully dried, and to be charged with their bright contents. The discovery of the richest cheese in the whole cheese-room is to be made by tasting; butter is to be moulded in small cakes, and imprinted with patterns of the deepest and most elegant figure, and a thonsand other things made, or done, of which the tasting were to be desired rather than the catalogue to be particularized, for, wonderful and manifold are all thy works, O thou accomplished spouse of a wealthy farmer!

What dainties has that greater oven received into its more capacious cavern. Bread of the most exquisite fineness; and pies of varied character—fruit, pork, beef-steak, and gibbet—if in Devon or Cornwall, *sweet* giblet, a pie that all Englend besides knows not of,—figgy-bread, and saffron-cake of transcendent brilliance and taste.—*Howitt.*

Female Farm Laborers.

Among all the fashions imported from abroad, here is one which will not, soon, be apt to find users.

"In all parts of the country women are more or less employed on the farms, and in some parts in large numbers; I have frequently counted thirty, fifty, and many more in a field at a time, both in hoeing turneps and in harvesting. I have found them, likewise, engaged in various other services: in pulling weeds, in picking stones, in unloading and treading grain, in tending threshing machines, in digging potatoes and pulling and topping turneps, in tending cattle, in leading out dung, and in carrying limestone and coals. Indeed, there is hardly any menial servic to which they are not accustomed; and all notions of their sex seem out of the question whenever their labor is wanted or can be applied. The wages of women are commonly six pence and eight pence, and they seldom exceed ten pence a day, excepting in harvest, when they are as high as a shilling. The hours of labor for the men are usually from six o'clock, A. M., to six P. M., with an interval of an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. The women rarely come before eight o'clock, and quit labor at six, with the usual indulgence for dinner. Many of the laborers walk two and three miles to their work, and return at night. Their meals are taken in the fields,

and in the most simple form. The dinner is often nothing more than bread.

"In the season of harvest, immense numbers of Irish come over to assist in the labor, and this presents almost the only opportunity which they have, in the course of the year, of earning a little money to pay the rent of their cabins and potato patches. Nothing can exceed the destitution and squalidness in which they are seen; starved, ragged, and dirty beyond all description, with the tatters hanging about them like a few remaining feathers upon a plucked goose. At their first coming they are comparatively feeble and inefficient; but, after a week's comfortable feeding, they recover strength, increasing some pounds in weight, and if they are allowed to perform their work by the piece, they accomplish a great deal.

"I found in one case on two farms—which, though under two tenants, might be considered as a joint concern—more than four hundred laborers employed during the harvests, a large proportion of whom were women, but not exclusively Irish. The average wages paid the men in this case was one shilling sterling, (or twenty-four cents) per day and their food, which was estimated at about nine pence (or about eighteen cents) per day. Their living consisted of oat meal porridge and a small quantity of sour milk or butter-milk for breakfast; a pound of wheaten bread, and a pint and a half of beer at dinner; and at night, a supper resembling the breakfast, or two pence in money in lieu of it. I was curious to know how so many people were lodged at night. In some cases they throw themselves down under the stacks, or upon some straw in the sheds, or out-buildings of the farm; but in the case to which I refer above, I was shown into the cattle stalls and stables, the floors of which were littered with straw; and here the men's coats and the women's caps and bonnets upon the walls, indicated that it was occupied by both parties promiscuously. This was indeed the fact. Each person, as far as possible, was supplied with a blanket, and these were the whole accommodations and the whole support. This was not a singular instance. I am unwilling to make any comments upon such facts as these. They speak for themselves. They are matters of general custom, and seemed to excite no attention. I do not refer to them as matter of reproach to the employers, who were persons of respectable character and condition, and whose families were distinguished for their refinement. But it presents one among many instances in which habit and custom reconcile us to many things which would otherwise offend us; and lead us to view some practices, utterly unjustifiable in themselves, with a degree of complacency or indifference; and as unalterable, because they have been so long established. I believe there is only one part of the United States where any thing resembling such a condition of things prevails, or would be permitted; and there only among a class of beings whose claims to humanity seem not very well established in all minds, and whose degradation, on account of their complexion, appears absolutely hopeless. But, even here, this indiscriminate consorting is not common; nor would it be permitted by any respectable planter."—*Colman.*

Remedy for the Bots.—A correspondent of the Albany Cultivator says:—"Having seen many horses die with bots, and many remedies given without effect, I was induced, by a merchant in Cambridge, to try the following for a horse of my own, after I had tried most of the remedies in common use without effect, and had given him up for lost:—Half pint vinegar, half pint soft soap, half pint gin, and half pint molasses, well shaken together, and poured down while foaming. To my great surprise, the horse was, in five minutes, wholly free from pain, and ate freely; the next morning I was on my journey. I have since recommended and given the same in perhaps fifty cases, with the same good effect; not in one instance has it failed to effect a perfect cure."

Simple and effectual Remedy for Hove in Cattle.—Try the remedy of an egg-shell full of tar, rather than attempt the barbarous practice of sticking. If two men hold the animal's head straight, a third its tongue to the right side, he can easily put down its throat an egg-shell full of tar, and in ten minutes relief will usually take place, but a second dose has never failed with my cattle, which are always kept at a brisk walking pace through the yard until relieved.—*Dublin Farmer's Gazette.*

Fever Medicine for Swine.—Take digitalis, three grains; antimonial powder, six grains; nitre, half a drachm; mix, and give in a little warm swill, or milk, or mush.

Heaves or Thumps in Horses.—This is thought to be brought on by feeding too much in bulky or rough food, as corn blades, straw, &c. The faster work you give your horses, diminish this kind of food, and give more of grain, in small quantities, fed often.

Scratches in Horses.—The sprinkling of plaster of Paris on stable floors, is not only an excellent plan for arresting the fertilizing gas of ammonia for manure, but it prevents horses having the scratches, or sore heels.—*Alb. Cult.*

Mary Howitt's use of Flowers.

Here is another of those beautiful gems which can never be brought to the light too often. And when more appropriately than now, in the middle of our springtime while bursting buds and fragrant blossoms or delighting every sense?

God might have made the earth bring forth
Enough for great and small,
The oak tree and the cedar tree,
Without a flower at all.

We might have had enough, enough
For every want of ours,
For luxury, medicine and toil,
And yet have had no flowers.

The ore within the mountain mine
Requireth none to grow,
Nor does it need the lotus flower
To make the river flow.

The clouds might give abundant rain,
The nightly dews might fall,
And the herb that keepeth life in man,
Might yet have drunk them all.

Then wherefore, wherefore were they made,
And dyed with rainbow light,
All fashioned with supremest grace,
Upspringing day and night?

Springing in valleys green and low,
And on the mountains high,
And in the silent wilderness,
Where no man passeth by?

Our outward life requires them not,
Then wherefore had they birth?
To minister delight to man—
To beautify the earth.

To comfort man, to whisper hope
When e'er his faith is dim,
For whoso careth for the flowers,
Will much more care for him.

Indirect loss of property by War.—War not only demands for its support vast sums of money, but dries up the main sources of a nation's wealth. Its victims are mostly men in the vigor of life. It cripples almost every species of business. It cuts the sinews of enterprise in every department of gainful industry. Fields lie untilled; factories stand still; the shop and the counting room are deserted; vessels rot at the wharves; every kind of trade is interupted or deranged; immense masses of capital are withdrawn from use; the entire energies of a nation are turned into the channel of war, and its resources whelmed in this mighty vortex of ruin.

A New Test.—Deacon H. used to say his wife had a certain recipe for testing the quality of indigo. It was to fill a milk pan with pure cold water, and to sift a little indigo on the surface; if the indigo was good, it would either sink or swim—*she could'nt exactly tell which.*

There is no better looking-glass than an old true friend.

A good wife is the workmanship of a good husband.

Prospect for Crops.

In our judgment, there is more complaint about damage to the crops from frost and drought, than the facts warrant. We know from our own observation, that the frost of two weeks ago did not injure wheat in Pennsylvania at all. In Virginia one of the finest crops of wheat they ever raised, has most of it been already harvested.

From all we can gather, we should say that the prospects in this State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, are as good as usual; and the same remark will apply to New England.—*N. Y. Jour. Commerce.*

In the South Western States as far north as Tennessee inclusive, we should say the grain crops are quite as good as usual. In Arkansas they are uncommonly good. In Alabama the corn crop is stated to be very fine.

Some accounts speak of the prospects in Kentucky as bad. The editor of the Shelby News, on the contrary, says,—"In passing through a portion of the northern and northwestern sections of Old Shelby, we were delighted with the fine appearance of the wheat crop. The corn does not exhibit that appearance that bespeaks the production of a good crop."—*Ibid.*

The Springfield (Illinois,) Journal, of the eighteenth, says: "Within a few day's past, there has been heavy rains in this region of the country. The corn is coming on most rapidly. Wheat will turn out better than was anticipated. Grass will be short, but, taking everything together, we anticipate a rich harvest of the various crops. There has been a sensible change of the phizzes of our agricultural friends within the last ten days—great luck to them.

The last Cincinnati Atlas says: There is evidently an attempt at the North, and at the East, to raise a breeze in the flour market, upon the prospect of short crops. We are sorry to see this feeling manifesting itself; for we are well convinced that the product of wheat the present year, will be amply sufficient to supply all the markets. In some of the grain-growing districts, the crop will undoubtedly be a short one; but in others it will be unusually large; besides there is a very great increase the number of acres sown; and should the yield per acre be less than in former years, in the increase from this cause will be enough to make up the deficiency.

Almost every year, the cry of "short crops" is heard, yet since 1837 be believe the product of wheat has been more than sufficient to supply all demands. Such, we verily believe, will be the case the present season.